

Roger Pompeo



This M.D. Is A Busy G.P.

—By Judith Epstein

Dr. Roger Pompeo is a busy man. But not too busy to read a patient the results of a lab test at the Log and Line. And not too busy to stop off at the home of someone recuperating from an operation.

A resident of Weymouth and Cohasset all his life, the 37-year-old doctor has earned many devotees. He is a rare breed. He undertakes to do more than humanly possible and finds a way to multiply more than the number of hours in a day available to the rest of us.

His local practice is complicated by other duties which are many and carefully arranged into his schedule. Of his patients 40% are Cohasset residents, 40% from surrounding towns and the rest travel a distance to see him. He admits it's hard to fit everything in and that his practice has grown far beyond what he originally wanted.

"In Cohasset, my life is not my own," the young physician doctor explained. His hours are long and the day doesn't end until late at night when he can finally unwind. However, this confession does not come as a complaint. The tragedy of a heart attack or other physical catastrophe occurring to a patient may loom large in his mind and disturb him. But Pompeo admitted he loves his work and places it first in his life.

Maybe it's this sensitivity that distinguishes him most. His family practice, which encompasses a wide spectrum of human ills, is known as primary care.

(turn to page 2)

Cites Chilling Effect

Maloney Raps School Committee

School Supt. John Maloney warned the School Committee this week that chaos could grip the Cohasset Schools if the rapport doesn't improve between the committee and his administration.

Maloney charged that two committee members, "with apparent defiance and designed effort" ignored the Committee's vote last week not to provide members with photostated copies of budget backup materials. Instead, copies of this information were to be held by school principals and made available for study at the request of committee members.

On Wednesday, "within 12 hours" of the vote, Maloney said, two committee members obtained the backup sheets from the high school and proceeded to photostat the materials, tying up the copy machine for three hours.

At other times, he continued, School Committee members have spent hours at a time in the business offices of the schools, creating a "chilling effect" and "unnecessary intrusion" within the administration. As a result, he said, there is discontent among the staff and a deterioration of morale in the schools.

The superintendent underscored the need to reverse the trend before the fabric of the entire system is undermined. He reminded committee members that they are expected, individually and collectively, to act with responsibility. He feared that future photostating by committee members would reveal confidential information on students.

In responding to Supt. Maloney, committee member Frank England expressed concern over the lack of cooperation from teachers and the administration in providing the committee with the backup material it wants. England said he found it "very strange" that the administration could include large photostated documents in his packet when they wanted "to sell us something."

After going through the backup sheets, England said he discovered \$20,000 to \$30,000 worth of athletic equipment in the budget that wasn't needed. "Take a walk through the basement of the Deer Hill School," he said, referring to what he called old

and discarded equipment that was stored there. "We've got a good school system; with better management, we could have an excellent system."

Vice chairman Josephine Mahoney said she hadn't found the administration difficult to work with and praised Mahoney for his comments, calling them long overdue. She said she was proud to see that the system had a superintendent who "had the guts" to speak as he did.

Later, when the meeting had adjourned, the committee members who had done the photostating of the backup materials defended their actions. Patricia Walsh and John Langmaid

said they did not monopolize the copy machine for three hours, but rather, stopped what they were doing to allow others to use it.

They also defended their right to make copies of the backup sheets. Mrs. Walsh added that she had paid for the paper used for the copies.

A motion made by committee member Irene Brown to bar any School Committee member in any school without the specific knowledge of the superintendent was rejected on a 4-2 vote.

A second motion by Mrs. Brown, to consider the maintenance portions of

(turn to page 3)



BETWEEN RAINS Wayne Hollis gets in some bellysiding on hill in front of Cohasset High School. (Greg Derr photo)

T.M. Water Article Ruled Illegal

Town Counsel J. Blake Thaxter, Jr. has ruled the vote which appropriated \$65,000 for a water main on Chief Justice Cushing Highway at the Nov. 2 Special Town Meeting illegal and void.

The legality of the article, inserted by Selectmen at the request of a citizen's petition, has been questioned in past weeks. The most concern over the vote has been whether repayment of money appropriated to the Water Department for a capital expense is an implicit requirement of the law. The article made no mention of repayment.

Thaxter's findings state that the section of the law which refers to the authority of a town meeting to raise money for the installation of water main revealed nothing to prohibit the vote. He also indicates that although income of a

water department should defray operating expenses, interest charges and payment on principal, no mention was made in this section of the law about capital expenditures. In Thaxter's opinion, the Water Department does not have to repay the Town for the appropriated sum.

The illegality of the vote is instead based on his conclusion the the Board of Water Commissioners had refused to extend the water main after being requested by residents prior to the Special Town Meeting vote. This determination came in a Jan. 5 letter to Selectman Arthur Clark after Thaxter had been trying since November to ascertain whether or not the Water Commissioners did, in fact, refuse to extend the main. The Water Commissioners were reportedly not adverse to supplying water but were with-

out funds to do so — Thaxter finally ruled this reason as a refusal.

Thaxter explains his ruling by quoting part of the statute, "If, for any reason, the Board of Water Commissioners should refuse to extend water mains or pipes into sections of the town not previously supplied with water from the town water works, a two-thirds vote of an annual Town Meeting shall be necessary to annul such refusal."

The law also requires that Selectmen direct all work done in town if funds are provided to construct, lay and maintain under or over public or other ways. Whether Selectmen intend to sponsor the article to be addressed at the annual Town Meeting as it now stands or with a clause outlining the possibility of repayment is unknown.